

and are selling the fertilizers at the black-market rates. So, the farmers had to raid the godowns and other places where these fertilizers are hidden and stored. So, a very alarming situation is there. In towns like Nakrekal, Kodada, Nandigama and Mirialagoda and several other places in Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are being assaulted by the Police. I request the Hon. Minister to immediately contact the State Government and take adequate steps to see that, as per the promise of the Government, the fertilizers are made available to the farmers at the old rates because they are supplied at the old rates to the traders.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : The need for developing the Inland Water Way cannot be over-emphasised. In the Eighth Lok Sabha, on the last day of the Session, a Bill was passed by this House for declaring the Cochin-Trivandrum Sector of the Inland Water Way as the National Water way. Unfortunately that was not passed by the Rajya Sabha and it lapsed. In the Ninth Lok Sabha, even after repeated requests from me, that was not presented. Sir, it requires only half-an-hour for passing such a non-controversial legislation. So, I request that : Bill for declaring Cochin-Trivendrum stretch of the West Coast Canal as National Water Way may be introduced in this Session of the Lok Sabha and passed without further delay.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Bhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the kind attention of our dynamic Railway Ministers regarding the situation affecting the people of the two neighbouring States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Palakbhemundi, Gunupur, Tekkali and Naupada areas are badly affected for want of basic rail transport facility. They have expressed strong resentment against the cancellation of train services on the Naupada-Gunupur narrow gauge section. The Chief Operating Superintendent of South-Eastern Railway, Waltair Division had issued a notification on 3rd August 1990 : "Due to very poor patronage, the Railways have decided to cancel the train services between Naupada-Gunupur".

The regular commuters, whom I personally met in my constituency recently, largely depend on this mode of transport. They have stated that the question of "very poor patronage" does not arise as this is the only train running in that area. In addition, they squarely blame the Railway staff for bringing things to this state. They also allege that the Railway staff have allowed the people to travel by taking less money simultaneously preventing them from buying tickets. Thus, the Railways were deprived of revenue not because of "very poor patronage" but due to corruption by its own staff.

Hence, I would urge upon the Ministry of Railways to ensure that strict action is taken against the alleged malpractices of the Railway staff forthwith, the old steam locomotives are replaced by the more efficient diesel engines, side by side restoring the original train services; also to actively consider the conversion of this narrow-gauge section to broad-gauge with extension for commercial viability to Rayagada or Bissam-Cuttack area expeditiously for providing the basic travel-cum-transport facility to the poor tribals, harijans and the downtrodden citizens of this under-developed and totally neglected region.

[Translation]

***SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palakkad) :** Sir, heavy rains have caused severe floods in Palakkad for the first time in history, the Palghat district is under water. Three persons have already died. People have no jobs and are starving. The roads are damaged and many houses have been washed away. The Attappady area, which is predominantly an Adivasi area is totally cut off from the rest of the land. The Adivasis are on the verge of starvation. The Government of Kerala has whatever assistance possible. The Government has released Rs. 10,000/- to the affected families and I thank the Govt. of Kerala for that. But that is not enough. The affected Adivasis and other poor people should be provided with free ration. Therefore, the Centre should immediately rush necessary assistance to Kerala.

*Translation of the submission originally made in Tamil.